

The invention claimed is:

1. A curable composition comprising a solvent solution of a mixture comprising:
  - (i) at least one hydroxy-functional acrylic polymer; and
  - (ii) at least one low molecular weight polyol reactive diluent;
  - (iii) at least one polyisocyanate;
  - (iv) a metal catalyst for accelerating the isocyanate/hydroxyl reaction; and
  - (v) propionic acid.
2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition has a viscosity less than about 25 seconds when measured by a #2 Zahn cup when formulated at a VOC level of 3.5 pounds/gallon.
3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the polyol diluent has a number average molecular weight less than about 1,000.
4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the polyol diluent has a number average molecular weight less than about 500.
5. The composition of claim 1 wherein the hydroxy-functional acrylic polymer has a number average molecular weight less than about 3,000.
6. The composition of claim 1 wherein the hydroxy-functional acrylic polymer has a number average molecular weight less than about 2,400.
7. The composition of claim 1 wherein the polyisocyanate is present at a level to provide about 0.3 to about 2.0 equivalents of isocyanate for each equivalent of active hydrogen from the acrylic resin and the polyol diluent.

8. The composition of claim 1 wherein the polyisocyanate is present at a level to provide about 0.7 to about 1.3 equivalents of isocyanate for each equivalent of active hydrogen from the acrylic resin and the polyol diluent.
9. The composition of claim 1 wherein the metal catalyst is a tin compound.
10. The composition of claim 1 wherein the propionic acid is present at a level of at least 0.1% of the total vehicle weight solids.
11. A curable composition comprising (on a weight solids basis of the vehicle solids):
  - (i) 20-70% parts of a hydroxy functional acrylic polymer having a number average molecular weight less than about 3,000, and preferably less than 2,400;
  - (ii) 2-30% of a low molecular weight polyol reactive diluent;
  - (iii) 10-55% of a polyisocyanate;
  - (iv) at least .01% of a tin catalyst compound; and
  - (v) 0.1 to about 3.0% propionic acid.
12. The composition of claim 11 wherein the composition has a viscosity less than about 25 seconds when measured by a #2 Zahn cup when formulated at a VOC level of 3.5 pounds/gallon.
13. The composition of claim 11 wherein the polyol diluent has a number average molecular weight less than about 1,000.
14. The composition of claim 11 wherein the polyol diluent has a number average molecular weight less than about 500.
15. The composition of claim 11 wherein the hydroxy-functional acrylic polymer has a number average molecular weight less than about 3,000.

16. The composition of claim 11 wherein the hydroxy-functional acrylic polymer has a number average molecular weight less than about 2,400.
17. The composition of claim 11 wherein the polyisocyanate is present at a level to provide about 0.3 to about 2.0 equivalents of isocyanate for each equivalent of active hydrogen from the acrylic resin and the polyol diluent.
18. The composition of claim 11 wherein the polyisocyanate is present at a level to provide about 0.7 to about 1.3 equivalents of isocyanate for each equivalent of active hydrogen from the acrylic resin and the polyol diluent.
19. In a substrate coated with a multi-layer decorative and/or protective coating which comprises:
  - (a) a basecoat comprising a pigmented film-forming polymer; and
  - (b) a transparent clearcoat comprising a film-forming polymer applied to the surface of the basecoat composition;the improvement which comprises utilizing as the clearcoat and/or the basecoat a curable composition comprising:
  - (i) at least one hydroxy-functional acrylic polymer; and
  - (ii) at least one low molecular weight polyol reactive diluent;
  - (iii) at least one polyisocyanate;
  - (iv) a metal catalyst for accelerating the isocyanate/hydroxyl reaction; and
  - (v) propionic acid.